

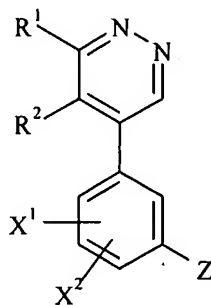
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-26 without prejudice and insert therefore new Claims 27-35. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-26 (canceled)

27. (new) A compound of the formula I:



(I)

wherein:

X¹ represents hydrogen, halogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl, trifluoromethyl or C₁₋₆ alkoxy;

X² represents hydrogen or halogen;

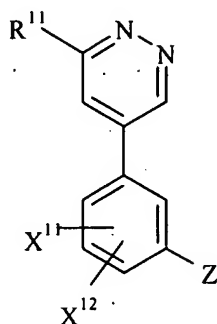
Z represents hydrogen, halogen, cyano, cyanomethyl, trifluoromethyl, nitro, hydroxy, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, formyl, C₂₋₆ alkoxy carbonyl, or an optionally substituted aryl, heteroaryl or heteroaryl(C₁₋₆)alkoxy group;

R¹ represents hydrogen, hydrocarbon, a heterocyclic group, halogen, cyano, trifluoromethyl, nitro, -OR^a, -OSO₂CF₃, -SR^a, -SOR^a, -SO₂R^a, -SO₂NR^aR^b, -NR^aR^b, -NR^aCOR^b, -NR^aCO₂R^b, -COR^a, -CO₂R^a, -CONR^aR^b or -CR^a=NOR^b;

R² represents hydrogen or C₂₋₆ alkoxy carbonyl; and

R^a and R^b independently represent hydrogen, hydrocarbon or a heterocyclic group; or an N-oxide thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

28. (new) The compound of Claim 27 of the formula IIA:



(IIA)

wherein:

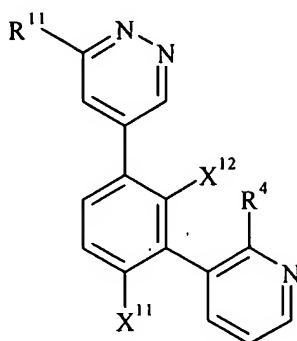
X¹¹ represents hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, methyl, trifluoromethyl or methoxy;

X¹² represents hydrogen or fluoro; and

R¹¹ represents phenyl, halophenyl, dihalophenyl, trihalophenyl,

(C₁₋₆ alkyl)(halo)phenyl, (trifluoromethyl)(halo)phenyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxyphenyl, (C₁₋₆ alkoxy)(halo)phenyl, cyanophenyl, (cyano)(halo)phenyl, C₃₋₇ heterocycloalkyl (optionally substituted by oxo), C₃₋₇ heterocycloalkenyl, heteroaryl (optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms, and/or by oxo), C₁₋₆ alkoxy, C₂₋₆ alkenyloxy, aryl(C₁₋₆)alkoxy, triflyloxy, C₁₋₆ alkylthio, C₁₋₆ alkylamino, C₂₋₆ alkenylamino, C₃₋₇ cycloalkylamino, aryl(C₁₋₆)alkylamino (optionally substituted by C₁₋₆ alkoxy) or C₂₋₆ alkoxycarbonyl.

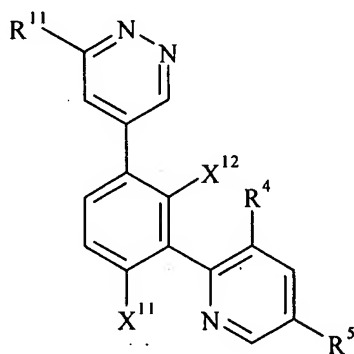
29. (new) The compound of Claim 28 of the formula IIC:



(IIC)

wherein R⁴ represents hydrogen, fluoro, cyano or methyl.

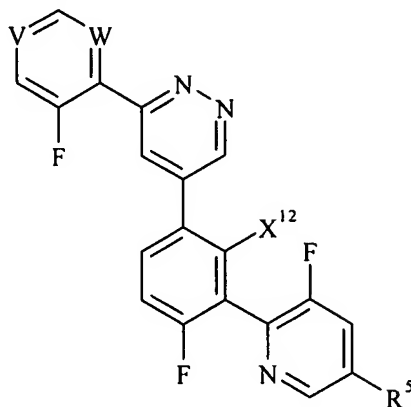
30. (new) The compound of Claim 28 of the formula IID:



(IID)

wherein R⁵ represents hydrogen or fluoro.

31. (new) The compound of Claim 30 of the formula IIE:



(IIE)

wherein:

- V represents N and W represents CF; or
- V represents CF and W represents N; or
- V and W both represent CF.

32. (new) A compound which is selected from the group consisting of:

- 5-[2-fluoro-3-(pyridin-3-yl)phenyl]-3-phenylpyridazine;
- 3-phenyl-5-[3-(pyridin-3-yl)phenyl]pyridazine;
- 5-[2,4-difluoro-3-(pyridin-4-yl)phenyl]-3-phenylpyridazine;
- 5-[4-fluoro-3-(pyridin-4-yl)phenyl]-3-phenylpyridazine;
- 5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-3-phenylpyridazine;
- 3-phenyl-5-[3-(pyridin-2-ylmethoxy)phenyl]pyridazine;
- 5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-4-yl)phenyl]-3-phenylpyridazine;
- 5-[2-fluoro-3-(pyridin-4-yl)phenyl]-3-phenylpyridazine;
- 5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluorophenyl]-3-phenylpyridazine;
- 5-[4-fluoro-3-(pyridin-3-yl)phenyl]-3-phenylpyridazine;
- 5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluorophenyl]-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-pyridazine;
- 5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-3-(2-fluorophenyl)pyridazine;
- 5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluorophenyl]-3-(2-fluorophenyl)-pyridazine;
- 5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-3-(pyridin-3-yl)pyridazine;
- 5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluorophenyl]-3-(3-fluorophenyl)-pyridazine;

3-(2,4-difluorophenyl)-5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluorophenyl]-pyridazine;
5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluorophenyl]-3-(3-methoxyphenyl)-pyridazine;
5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluorophenyl]-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-pyridazine;
3-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluorophenyl]-pyridazine;
2-{5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluorophenyl]pyridazin-3-yl}-5-fluorobenzonitrile;
3-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]pyridazine;
5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-3-(furan-3-yl)pyridazine;
5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-3-(furan-2-yl)pyridazine;
3-(2,3-difluorophenyl)-5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-pyridazine;
5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-3-(thien-3-yl)pyridazine;
5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-3-(thien-2-yl)pyridazine;
3-(2,5-difluorophenyl)-5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-pyridazine;
3-(3,4-difluorophenyl)-5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-pyridazine;
4-{5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]pyridazin-3-yl} benzonitrile;
5-[4-fluoro-3-(pyridin-4-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-3-phenylpyridazine;
5-[4-fluoro-3-(pyridin-3-ylmethoxy)phenyl]-3-phenylpyridazine;
5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-3-(pyridin-4-yl)pyridazine;
5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-3-(pyrazin-2-yl)pyridazine;
5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-3-(thiazol-2-yl)pyridazine;
5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-3-(pyridin-2-yl)pyridazine;
5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-3-(3-fluoropyridin-4-yl)pyridazine;
5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-3-(1H-[1,2,3]triazol-4-yl)pyridazine;
5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]pyridazine-3-carboxylic acid ethyl ester;
5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluorophenyl]-3-(2-fluorophenyl)-pyridazine-1-oxide;
3-(2,6-difluorophenyl)-5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-pyridazine;
and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

33. (new) A compound which is selected from the group consisting of:

3-(4-chloro-2-fluorophenyl)-5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluorophenyl]pyridazine;
5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluorophenyl]-3-(2-fluoro-4-trifluoromethylphenyl)pyridazine;
5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluorophenyl]-3-(2-fluoro-4-methylphenyl)-pyridazine;
3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluorophenyl]pyridazine;

trifluoromethanesulfonic acid 5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]pyridazin-3-yl ester;
3-ethylsulfanyl-5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]pyridazine;
3-tert-butylsulfanyl-5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]pyridazine;
5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluorophenyl]-3-(3-fluoropyridin-4-yl)-pyridazine;
5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluorophenyl]-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)-pyridazine;
5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)-pyridazine;
5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-3-(3-fluoropyridin-4-yl)-pyridazine 1-oxide;
5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-3-(3-fluoro-1-oxypyridin-4-yl)-pyridazine;
5-[2,4-difluoro-3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-4-yl)pyridazine;
5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluorophenyl]-3-(2-fluoro-4-methoxyphenyl)pyridazine;
5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]-3-(2-fluoro-4-methoxyphenyl)-pyridazine;
3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-4-yl)-5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]pyridazine;
3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-5-[4-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)phenyl]pyridazine;
3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-4-yl)-5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluorophenyl]pyridazine;
and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

34. (new) The compound of Claim 27 which is selected from the group consisting of:

3-(3,5-difluoro-1-oxypyridin-4-yl)-5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluoro-phenyl]pyridazine;
2-{5-[6-(3,5-difluoropyridin-4-yl)pyridazin-4-yl]-2-fluorophenyl}-nicotinonitrile;
2-{5-[6-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)pyridazin-4-yl]-2-fluorophenyl}-nicotinonitrile;
3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-5-(4-fluoro-3-trifluoromethylphenyl)pyridazine;
3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-5-(6-fluoro-2'-trifluoromethylbiphenyl-3-yl)-pyridazine;
5-(6,2'-difluorobiphenyl-3-yl)-3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)pyridazine;
3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-5-(6,2',4'-trifluorobiphenyl-3-yl)pyridazine;
5-[3-(3,5-difluoropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluorophenyl]-3-(2,4,6-trifluorophenyl)-pyridazine;
and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

35. (new) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound of Claim 27, or an N-oxide thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.